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SB 2293 RELATING TO WILDLIFE

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Planning and Environment
Public Hearing - February 10, 1988

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SB 2293 would establish a special wildlife fund within the State Treasury to receive moneys collected from fees for hunting licenses, fines related to illegal possession of game and wildlife, or other moneys collected as fines for violations of this chapter or chapter 195D concerning wildlife conservation. The bill also establishes specific limits on the expenditure of moneys from the special wildlife fund so established.

Our statement on this bill does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

The use of funds collected in the course of enforcement of wildlife management programs, for study, research, education, conservation and management of wildlife seems entirely reasonable and we support the intent of this bill.

We note a related bill, SB 2295, would create a wildlife "revolving" fund under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). A revolving fund under DLNR may have certain advantages. First, it would permit carry over of the funds from year to year and thereby offer ongoing support of wildlife management programs. Second, under DLNR, the money may be more accessible in times of emergencies and thereby provide the opportunity for quicker response, for example, in the event of a disease outbreak. Finally, having the fund housed closer to the expending agency may be more efficient.